

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 235477

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 235477

E.O. 11652

TAGS: CI, PFOR

SUBJECT: NOON BRIEFING - WASH. POST ARTICLE MILGROUP

PERSONNEL ISSUE

SPOKESMAN AT FRIDAY, NOV. 30, 1973 PRESS BRIEFING WAS ASKED
ABOUT WASHINGTON POST STORY CONCERNING MILGROUP PERSONNEL
ISSUE. FOLLOWING IS EXCHANGE:

Q: WHAT WAS THE ROLE OF AMBASSADOR DAVIS, IF ANY, IN THE
CASE OF THIS BLACK U.S. OFFICER WHO WAS NOT ACCEPTED AS A
MEMBER OF THE MILITARY GROUP IN SANTIAGO, CHILE?

A: FIRST OF ALL, I'D HAVE TO SAY THAT I DO NOT HAVE THE
FACTS -- THE DETAILS -- ON THIS, THE NATURE IN WHICH -
CHAIN, ACTED ON THE MATTER AND HOW THEY ACTED.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 235477

AND I THINK FOR THAT PARTICULAR DETAIL YOU SHOULD LOOK TO

DOD.

BUT AS FAR AS THE GENERAL PRINCIPLE OF WHETHER A BLACK OFFICER, KNOWN TO BE A BLACK OFFICER, WAS INDEED INVOLVED-- AND I TALKED TO AMBASSADOR DAVIS THIS MORNING AND HE HAS NO RECOLLECTION AT ALL OF THIS ISSUE HAVING BEEN PRESENTED TO HIM WHEN HE WAS IN CHILE. HIS VIEWS, OVER MANY YEARS IN THIS PARTICULAR AREA, HAVE BEEN VERY STRONG AND VERY WELL KNOWN I DON'T HAVE THE DETAILS AS TO HOW THE EPISODE TOOK PLACE, HOW IT WAS REPRESENTED IN MESSAGES; AND THAT'S ALL I CAN SAY.

Q: WHEN YOU SAY HIS VIEWS ARE STRONG AND WELL KNOWN, WHAT ARE THEY?

A: IN OPPOSITION TO ANY RACIAL DISCRIMINATIONS.

Q: AS A GENERAL PRINCIPLE, WHAT IS THE SITUATION? DO WE NEED AN AGREEMENT FOR DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL LESSER THAN THE AMBASSADOR?

A: NOT IN MY EXPERIENCE.

Q: WELL, I'M TALKING IN GENERAL TERMS -- DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, SECRETARIES.

A: IN GENERAL TERMS, YOU DO NOT.

Q: HAVE SOME INQUIRIES BEEN MADE BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO TRY TO ASCERTAIN THE FACTS IN THE MATTER CONCERNING THE EMBASSY'S ROLE -- IF ANY -- IN THE AFFAIR?

A: THE INQUIRIES HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TODAY TO TRY TO ASCERTAIN THE FACTS OF THE CASE.

Q: WHO'S MAKING THE INQUIRIES?

A: I DON'T KNOW WHO ELSE MAY BE MAKING THEM, BUT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS NATURALLY INTERESTED IN THE CASE.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 235477

Q: ISN'T IT TRUE THAT WHILE THERE MAY NOT BE ANY FORMAL AGREEMENTS NECESSARY ON THE PART OF THE HOST GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT FOREIGN SERVICE OR EMBASSY PEOPLE BELOW THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR, THERE IS FREQUENTLY A TACIT UNDERSTANDING THAT CERTAIN PEOPLE ARE NOT TO BE SENT TO CERTAIN AREAS.

A: LET US PUT IT THIS WAY: WHILE NOT FORMAL AGREEMENT,

IT IS QUITE OBVIOUS, IF SOMEBODY IS NOT WANTED BY A COUNTRY, THEY HAVE THE PERFECT TRADITIONAL DIPLOMATIC PROCEDURE. WE HAVE HAD A LOT OF EXPERIENCE IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES WITH PEOPLE BEING DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA AFTER THEY GOT THERE AND HAD BEEN THERE A VERY SHORT TIME.

Q: BUT WHAT I MEAN IS ON MORE GENERAL GROUNDS -- BEYOND THE FACT OF INDIVIDUAL PERSONALITY, BASED ON OTHER GROUNDS, SUCH AS ORIGIN OR --

Q: RELIGION.

Q: -- OTHER FACTORS OF THAT KIND.

A: THERE ARE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE THEIR OWN ATTITUDES ON THESE THINGS. BUT THE U.S. POSITION IS PERFECTLY CLEARCUT, AND THAT IS: AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, WE TRY TO AVOID ANY KIND OF DISCRIMINATION. WE HAVE MADE GREAT EFFORTS TO DO THE BEST WE CAN, WHILE MAINTAINING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIPS -- THE TRADITIONAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIPS -- TO AVOID DISCRIMINATION. AND IF MY MEMORY SERVES ME RIGHT WE NOW HAVE, IN SOUTH AFRICA, A BLACK DIPLOMAT.

Q: HAVE WE ANY MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH FAITH IN ISLAMIC COUNTRIES?

A: TAKEN AS A WHOLE, I DON'T HAVE THE ANSWER ON THAT.

Q: THE AMBASSADOR LEFT THERE WHEN?

A: LEFT CHILE?

Q: YES.

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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 235477

A: I BELIEVE APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS AGO TO A MONTH. IF YOU GENTLEMEN WHO MADE THAT TRIP TO CHINA WILL RECALL, HE ARRIVED HERE SHORTLY BEFORE.

A: IF IT'S OF ANY ADDITIONAL INTEREST ON THE CHILEAN MATTER -- TO GO BACK TO THAT -- A FURTHER PEICE OF INFORMATION: AND THAT IS, ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM THE COMMANDER OF THE MILITARY GROUP IN CHILE, HE HAS CONFIRMED THAT HE DID NOT CONSULT WITH AMBASSADOR DAVIS OR THE EMBASSY IN ANY WAY. AND I THINK, UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, ANY FURTHER PURSUIT OF THE QUESTION OF THIS CHILE MATTER WOULD BEST BE PURSUED IN DOD.

Q: IS HIS NAME ON THAT PIECE OF PAPER?

A: NO, I DON'T HAVE IT. I'M SORRY. BUT I'M SURE IT WOULD
BE IDENTIFIABLE IN DOD.

Q: REFERENCE WAS MADE IN THE REPORT TODAY TO AN ALLEGED
CHILEAN RACIAL POLICY. WAS THIS COUNTRY AWARE, OR IS IT
AWARE NOW, OF ANY RACIAL POLICY IN CHILE AGAINST ACCEPT-
ING BLACKS?

A: NO; WE ARE NOT AWARE OF A SPECIAL RACIAL POLICY OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF CHILE. KISSINGER

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